(c) whether Chess is a recognised game, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have refused travel assistance to Indian Chess Team for participating in international tournament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 210 crores has been allocated for sports in the 8th Five Year Plan. This amount is meant for the implementation of the schemes of Department of Youth Affairs and Sports and Sports Authority of India including the 15 priorities disciplines identified for 1994 Asian Games.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) During 1992-93, the Department had cleared seven proposals of Chess Federation at 'Government cost' for participating in International Tournaments abroad at the cost of Rs. 10.50 lakhs. It is not possible for the Government to approve each and every proposal of the Chess Federation at Government cost for participating in the international tournaments.

NBT without a head

588. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Book Trust is still working without any head; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The National Book Trust has a full-time Director. The Honorary Chairman of the Trust, Prof. U. R. Ananthamurthy, who resigned in the context of his election to the post of President of Sahitya Akademi is continuing till the appointment of a successor.

Upgradation of Navyug Schools

589. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any requests for upgradation of Navyug schools and to improve their functioning;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether any decision has since been taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) NDMC has informed that they have received request for upgradation of Navyug schools from the Navyug Schools Parents' Association, New Delhi. Due to paucity of space and other constraints, NDMC has decided not to upgrade Navyug schools this year. But the students passing out of class VIII from the existing middle schools will be accommodated in the Navyug Schools at Sarojini Nagar and Peshwa Road.

590. [*Transferred to 13th May, 1993*]

Female Literacy

591. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state what specific policy and measures have been taken since April, 1992 for spreading of female literacy and improving the status of women in 33 districts of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh selected